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# CIA Warns of Arms Verification Scheme

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Comprehensive verification procedures the Soviet Union is proposing in current strategic arms control negotiations could be "difficult if not dangerous" for the United States "to go whole hog on," Central Intelligence Agency Director William H. Webster said yesterday.

Speaking to a group of reporters, the CIA director said the Soviet Union has "that whole wasteland" in which to conceal sites and weapons, where U.S. territory is more easily inspected. "It may be [like competing on] a little uneven playing field to have total reciprocal inspections," he said.

His remarks came in response to a question about a letter published in The Washington Post yesterday from the chief arms control adviser to the Soviet armed forces general staff, Col. Gen. Nikolai Chervov. The letter defended the Soviet proposal for "comprehensive verification of all available strategic weapons as well as of their manufacture and movement," and for inspection even "of any train" to assure there was no mobile missile launcher aboard.

Webster said there were "concerns" in the defense community

"that this may in fact be difficult if not dangerous for us to go whole hog on. It has to do with emerging defense strategies and other considerations," he said, especially "locations of some of our more sensitive operations" that have never been subject to inspection.

"To give them [the Soviets] unrestricted access to our most sensitive areas is a very heavy price to pay" for U.S. confidence that the Soviets are not cheating. "So it's a tough trade-off."

Chervov's letter was in reply to a March 24 column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak that said the Defense Intelligence Agency had warned President Bush that the Soviets could easily breach the proposed limit of 6,000 warheads on strategic delivery vehicles, and that there was no way to monitor reliably the deployment of Soviet mobile missiles.

The CIA was known to be among U.S. agencies opposed to the Soviet proposal, but Webster's comments provided a rare public appraisal.

Asked about possible cooperation between the CIA and its Soviet counterpart, the KGB, he said there was "some suggestion" the two agencies "might do something together about terrorism." But he said that raised "a whole other is-

sue" about bilateral relations between the two intelligence agencies that had not been resolved.

Webster said it should still be possible to agree that plane bombings—such as that of Pan American Airlines Flight 103 that killed 270 on Dec. 21—constitute "criminal activity" that has no justification on political grounds.

"In those areas, there may be a basis for some kinds of discussions," he said, adding he expects to decide soon whether cooperation on terrorism might be possible. Diplomats from both sides plan a first official meeting in Moscow later in the spring to explore possible joint action on terrorism, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Webster also appeared to doubt the wisdom of the Reagan administration's indictment of Panama's military strongman, Manuel Antonio Noriega, last year as part of its abortive campaign to force him from power.

Law enforcement agencies should "think long and hard" about trying to seize drug or terrorist suspects in other countries, he said, "and we also have to think about difficult questions such as indicting heads of state and what we're prepared to do about it after we have indicted them."